

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A movable body rental system including a plurality of movable body apparatuses and a movable body management apparatus, wherein said movable body management apparatus manages said plurality of movable body apparatuses, and wherein

each of said plurality of movable body apparatuses comprises:

authentication information transmission means for transmitting authentication information to said movable body management apparatus;

authentication result information reception means for receiving authentication result information returned in response to said authentication information;

lock means for preventing use of a movable body apparatus;

lock control means for controlling said lock means based on said authentication result information received by said authentication result information reception means;

distance measuring means for measuring a mileage;

distance information transmission means for transmitting information indicating said mileage measured by said distance measuring means to said movable body management apparatus;

time measuring means for measuring a driving time; and

time information transmission means for transmitting information indicating said driving time measured by said time measuring means to said movable body management apparatus, and wherein

said movable body management apparatus comprises:

authentication information reception means for receiving said authentication information from said movable body apparatus;

authentication result information transmission means for transmitting said authentication result information corresponding to said authentication information received by said authentication information reception means to said movable body apparatus;

distance information reception means for receiving information indicating said mileage from said movable body apparatus;

time information reception means for receiving information indicating said driving time from said movable body apparatus;

fee calculation means for calculating a fee for said movable body apparatus according to said mileage received by said distance information reception means and said driving time received by said time information reception means; and

settlement means for performing settlement processing according to use of said movable body apparatus based on a result of said fee calculation means.

2. (previously presented) The movable body rental system according to claim 1, wherein said movable body apparatus further comprises:

payable information acceptance means for accepting payable information, wherein

said authentication information transmission means transmits said payable information accepted by said payable information acceptance means as said authentication information to said authentication information reception means of said movable body management apparatus, and wherein

said lock control means controls said lock means to release a lock mechanism when receiving permission information based on said authentication result information received by said authentication result information reception means from said authentication result information transmission means of said movable body management apparatus, and wherein

said movable body management apparatus further comprises:

determination means for determining whether payment is possible based on said payable information received as said authentication information by said authentication information

reception means from said authentication information transmission means of said movable body apparatus, wherein

said authentication result information transmission means transmits said permission information as said authentication result information to said authentication result information reception means of said movable body apparatus, when said determination means determines payment is possible.

3. (previously presented) The movable body rental system according to claim 2, wherein

said movable body management apparatus further comprises:

authentication request reception means for receiving an authentication request, wherein said authentication request includes identification information about a user transmitted by a mobile communication terminal of said user of said movable body apparatus; and

authentication processing means for performing authentication processing based on said identification information included in said authentication request received by said authentication request reception means, wherein

said authentication result information transmission means of said movable body management apparatus transmits said permission information based on results determined by said authentication processing means and said determination means.

4. (previously presented) The movable body rental system according to claim 1, wherein

said movable body management apparatus further comprises:

authentication request reception means for receiving an authentication request, wherein said authentication request includes identification information about a user transmitted by a mobile communication terminal of said user of said movable body apparatus; and

authentication processing means for performing authentication processing based on said identification information included in said authentication request received by said authentication request reception means, wherein

said authentication result information transmission means of said movable body management apparatus transmits permission information based on results determined by said authentication processing means.

5. (previously presented) The movable body rental system according to claim 1, wherein said fee calculation means of said movable body management apparatus determines said fee based on a position where said movable body apparatus is returned.

6. (previously presented) The movable body rental system according to claim 5, wherein said fee calculation means of said movable body management apparatus sets a higher fee when said movable body apparatus is returned to a position different from

a predetermined return position than when it is returned to said predetermined return position.

7. (original) The movable body rental system according to claim 1, wherein said fee calculation means of said movable body management apparatus calculates said fee based on said driving time and an average driving time which is determined according to said mileage.

8. (previously presented) A movable body rental system including a plurality of movable body apparatuses and a movable body management apparatus, wherein said movable body management apparatus manages said plurality of movable body apparatuses, and wherein

each of said plurality of movable body apparatuses comprises:

authentication information transmission means for transmitting authentication information to said movable body management apparatus;

authentication result information reception means for receiving authentication result information returned in response to said authentication information;

lock means for preventing use of a movable body apparatus;

lock control means for controlling said lock means based on said authentication result information received by said authentication result information reception means;

current position detection means for detecting a current position at a specified time interval; and

current position transmission means for transmitting current positional information, wherein said current positional information includes said current position detected by said current position detection means, and wherein

said movable body management apparatus comprises:

authentication information reception means for receiving said authentication information from said movable body apparatus;

authentication result information transmission means for transmitting said authentication result information corresponding to said authentication information received by said authentication information reception means to said movable body apparatus;

current position reception means for receiving said current positional information from said current position transmission means of said movable body apparatus;

mileage measuring means for measuring a mileage of said movable body apparatus based on said current positional information received by said current position reception means;

driving time measuring means for measuring a driving time of said movable body apparatus based on said current positional information received by said current position reception means;

fee calculation means for calculating a fee for using said movable body apparatus according to said mileage measured by said mileage measuring means and said driving time measured by said driving time measuring means; and

settlement means for performing settlement processing according to use of said movable body apparatus based on a result of said fee calculation means.

9. (previously presented) The movable body rental system according to claim 8, wherein

said movable body apparatus further comprises:

payable information acceptance means for accepting payable information, wherein

said authentication information transmission means transmits said payable information accepted by said payable information acceptance means as said authentication information to said authentication information reception means of said movable body management apparatus, and wherein

said lock control means controls said lock means to release a lock mechanism when receiving permission information based on said authentication result information received by said authentication result information reception means from said authentication result information transmission means of said movable body management apparatus, and wherein

said movable body management apparatus further comprises:

determination means for determining whether payment is possible based on said payable information received as said authentication information by said authentication information reception means from said authentication information transmission means of said movable body apparatus, wherein

said authentication result information transmission means transmits said permission information as said authentication result information to said authentication result information reception means of said movable body apparatus, when said determination means determines payment is possible.

10. (previously presented) The movable body rental system according to claim 9, wherein

said movable body management apparatus further comprises:

authentication request reception means for receiving an authentication request includes, wherein said authentication request comprises identification information about a user transmitted by a mobile communication terminal of said user of said movable body apparatus; and

authentication processing means for performing authentication processing based on said identification information included in said authentication request received by said authentication request reception means, wherein

said authentication result information transmission means of said movable body management apparatus transmits said

permission information based on results determined by said authentication processing means and said determination means.

11. (previously presented) The movable body rental system according to claim 8, wherein

said movable body management apparatus further comprises:

authentication request reception means for receiving an authentication request, wherein said authentication request includes identification information about a user transmitted by a mobile communication terminal of said user of said movable body apparatus; and

authentication processing means for performing authentication processing based on said identification information included in said authentication request received by said authentication request reception means, wherein

said authentication result information transmission means of said movable body management apparatus transmits permission information based on results determined by said authentication processing means.

12. (previously presented) The movable body rental system according to claim 8, wherein said fee calculation means of said movable body management apparatus determines said fee based on a position where said movable body apparatus is returned.

13. (previously presented) The movable body rental system according to claim 12, wherein said fee calculation means of

said movable body management apparatus sets a higher fee when said movable body apparatus is returned to a position different from a predetermined return position than when it is returned to said predetermined return position.

14. (original) The movable body rental system according to claim 8, wherein said fee calculation means of said movable body management apparatus calculates said fee based on said driving time and an average driving time which is determined according to said mileage.

15. (previously presented) A movable body management system for a movable body rental system including a plurality of movable body apparatuses and a movable body management apparatus, wherein said movable body management apparatus manages said plurality of movable body apparatuses, and wherein

each of said plurality of movable body apparatuses comprises:

current position measuring means for measuring a current position; and

current position transmission means for transmitting current positional information, wherein said current positional information includes said current position measured by said current position measuring means, and wherein

said movable body management apparatus comprises:

current position reception means for receiving said current positional information transmitted from said current position transmission means of a movable body apparatus;

provision request reception means for receiving a provision request transmitted from a mobile communication terminal, wherein said provision request is for said current positional information about a nearby movable body apparatus; and positional information transmission means for transmitting said current positional information about said current position of said nearby movable body apparatus to said mobile communication terminal transmitting said provision request, wherein said current positional information is transmitted when said provision request reception means receives said provision request.

16. (previously presented) The movable body management system according to claim 15, wherein

said positional information transmission means of said movable body management apparatus transmits movable body retrieval information for retrieving said movable body apparatus in addition to said current positional information about said movable body apparatus, and

wherein said movable body retrieval information is transmitted by said mobile communication terminal of said user who wants to use said movable body apparatus, and wherein

said movable body apparatus further comprises:

for receiving said movable body retrieval information from a mobile communication terminal; and

notification means for notifying a user of a nearby movable body apparatus position when said retrieval information reception means receives said movable body retrieval information addressed to said nearby movable body apparatus.

17. (previously presented) The movable body management system according to claim 15, wherein

said mobile communication terminal comprises:

current position detection means for detecting said current position of said movable body apparatus; and

transmission means for transmitting said current position detected by said current position detection means, wherein

said current position reception means in said movable body management apparatus is capable of receiving said current position from said mobile communication terminal for said movable body apparatus, and wherein

said positional information transmission means retrieves said movable body apparatus nearest to said mobile communication terminal based on said current position of said mobile communication terminal received by said current position reception means.

18. (previously presented) The movable body management system according to claim 15, wherein

said movable body apparatus further comprises:

authentication information transmission means for transmitting authentication information to said movable body management apparatus;

authentication result information reception means for receiving authentication result information returned in response to said authentication information;

lock means for preventing use of said movable body apparatus;

lock control means for controlling said lock means based on said authentication result information received by said authentication result information reception means, and wherein

said movable body management apparatus further comprises:

authentication information reception means for receiving said authentication information from said movable body apparatus; and

authentication result information transmission means for transmitting said authentication result information corresponding to said authentication information received by said authentication information reception means to said movable body apparatus.

19. (previously presented) The movable body management system according to claim 18, wherein

said movable body apparatus further comprises:

payable information acceptance means for accepting payable information, wherein

said authentication information transmission means transmits said payable information accepted by said payable information acceptance means as said authentication information to said authentication information reception means of said movable body management apparatus, and wherein

said lock control means controls said lock means to release a lock mechanism when receiving permission information based on said authentication result information received by said authentication result information reception means from said authentication result information transmission means of said movable body apparatus, and wherein

said movable body management apparatus further comprises:

determination means for determining whether payment is possible based on said payable information received as said authentication information by said authentication information reception means from said authentication information transmission means of said movable body apparatus; and

said authentication result information transmission means transmits said permission information as said authentication

result information to said authentication result information reception means of said movable body apparatus, when said determination means determines payment is possible.

20. (previously presented) The movable body management system according to claim 19, wherein

said movable body management apparatus further comprises:

authentication request reception means for receiving an authentication request, wherein said authentication request includes identification information about a user transmitted by a mobile communication terminal of said user of said movable body apparatus; and

authentication processing means for performing authentication processing based on said identification information included in said authentication request received by said authentication request reception means, wherein

said authentication result information transmission means of said movable body management apparatus transmits said permission information based on results determined by said authentication processing means and said determination means.

21. (previously presented) The movable body management system according to claim 18, wherein

said movable body management apparatus further comprises:

authentication request reception means for receiving an authentication request, wherein said authentication request

includes identification information about a user transmitted by a mobile communication terminal of said user of said movable body apparatus; and

authentication processing means for performing authentication processing based on said identification information included in said authentication request received by said authentication request reception means, wherein

said authentication result information transmission means of said movable body management apparatus transmits permission information based on results determined by said authentication processing means.

22. (previously presented) A movable body apparatus in a movable body rental system comprising a plurality of movable body apparatuses and a movable body management apparatus, wherein said movable body management apparatus manages said plurality of movable body apparatuses, and wherein said movable body apparatus comprises:

authentication information transmission means for transmitting authentication information to said movable body management apparatus;

authentication result information reception means for receiving authentication result information returned in response to said authentication information;

lock means for preventing use of said movable body apparatus;

lock control means for controlling said lock means based on said authentication result information received by said authentication result information reception means;

distance measuring means for measuring a mileage;

distance information transmission means for transmitting information indicating said mileage measured by said distance measuring means to said movable body management apparatus;

time measuring means for measuring a driving time; and

time information transmission means for transmitting information indicating said driving time measured by said time measuring means to said movable body management apparatus.

23. (previously presented) The movable body apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising:

payable information acceptance means for accepting payable information, wherein said authentication information transmission means transmits said payable information accepted by said payable information acceptance means as said authentication information to authentication information reception means of said movable body management apparatus, and wherein

said lock control means controls said lock means to release a lock mechanism when receiving permission information based on

said authentication result information received by said authentication result information reception means from authentication result information transmission means of said movable body management apparatus.

24. (previously presented) A movable body apparatus in a movable body rental system having a plurality of movable body apparatuses and a movable body management apparatus, wherein said movable body management apparatus manages said plurality of movable body apparatuses, and wherein said movable body apparatus comprises:

authentication information transmission means for transmitting authentication information to said movable body management apparatus;

authentication result information reception means for receiving authentication result information returned in response to said authentication information;

lock means for preventing use of said movable body apparatus;

lock control means for controlling said lock means based on said authentication result information received by said authentication result information reception means;

current position detection means for detecting a current position at a specified time interval; and

current position transmission means for transmitting current positional information, wherein said current positional information includes said current position detected by said current position detection means.

25. (previously presented) The movable body apparatus according to claim 24, comprising:

payable information acceptance means for accepting payable information, wherein said authentication information transmission means transmits said payable information accepted by said payable information acceptance means as said authentication information to authentication information reception means of said movable body management apparatus, and wherein

said lock control means controls said lock means to release a lock mechanism when receiving permission information based on said authentication result information received by said authentication result information reception means from authentication result information transmission means of said movable body management apparatus.

26. (previously presented) A movable body management apparatus in a movable body rental system including a plurality of movable body apparatuses and a movable body management apparatus, wherein said movable body management apparatus

manages said plurality of movable body apparatuses, and wherein said movable body management apparatus comprises:

authentication information reception means for receiving authentication information from a movable body apparatus;

authentication result information transmission means for transmitting authentication result information corresponding to said authentication information received by said authentication information reception means to said movable body apparatus;

distance information reception means for receiving information indicating a mileage from said movable body apparatus;

time information reception means for receiving information indicating a driving time from said movable body apparatus;

fee calculation means for calculating a fee for said movable body apparatus according to said mileage received by said distance information reception means and said driving time received by said time information reception means; and

settlement means for performing settlement processing according to use of said movable body apparatus based on a result of said fee calculation means.

27. (previously presented) The movable body management apparatus according to claim 26, comprising:

determination means for determining whether payment is possible based on payable information received as said

authentication information by said authentication information reception means from authentication information transmission means of said movable body apparatus, wherein

said authentication result information transmission means transmits permission information as said authentication result information to authentication result information reception means of said movable body apparatus, when said determination means determines payment is possible.

28. (previously presented) The movable body management apparatus according to claim 27, comprising:

authentication request reception means for receiving an authentication request, wherein said authentication request includes identification information about a user transmitted by a mobile communication terminal of said user of said movable body apparatus; and

authentication processing means for performing authentication processing based on said identification information included in said authentication request received by said authentication request reception means, wherein

said authentication result information transmission means transmits said permission information based on results determined by said authentication processing means and said determination means.

29. (previously presented) The movable body management apparatus according to claim 26, comprising:

authentication request reception means for receiving an authentication request, wherein authentication request includes identification information about a user transmitted by a mobile communication terminal of said user of said movable body apparatus; and

authentication processing means for performing authentication processing based on said identification information included in said authentication request received by said authentication request reception means, wherein

said authentication result information transmission means transmits permission information based on results determined by said authentication processing means.

30. (previously presented) The movable body management apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said fee calculation means determines said fee based on a position where said movable body apparatus is returned.

31. (previously presented) The movable body management apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said fee calculation means sets a higher fee when said movable body apparatus is returned to a position different from a predetermined return position than when it is returned to said predetermined return position.

32. (original) The movable body management apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said fee calculation means calculates said fee based on said driving time and an average driving time which is determined according to said mileage.

33. (previously presented) A movable body management apparatus in a movable body rental system including a plurality of movable body apparatuses and a movable body management apparatus, wherein said movable body management apparatus manages said plurality of movable body apparatuses, and wherein said movable body management apparatus comprises:

authentication information reception means for receiving authentication information from a movable body apparatus;

authentication result information transmission means for transmitting authentication result information corresponding to said authentication information received by said authentication information reception means to said movable body apparatus;

current position reception means for receiving current positional information from current position transmission means of said movable body apparatus;

mileage measuring means for measuring a mileage of said movable body apparatus based on said current positional information received by said current position reception means;

driving time measuring means for measuring a driving time of said movable body apparatus based on said current positional information received by said current position reception means;

fee calculation means for calculating a fee for using said movable body apparatus according to said mileage measured by said mileage measuring means and said driving time measured by said driving time measuring means; and

settlement means for performing settlement processing according to use of said movable body apparatus based on a result of said fee calculation means.

34. (previously presented) The movable body management apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising:

determination means for determining whether payment is possible based on payable information received as said authentication information by said authentication information reception means from authentication information transmission means of said movable body apparatus, wherein

said authentication result information transmission means transmits permission information as said authentication result information to said authentication result information reception means of said movable body apparatus, when said determination means determines payment is possible.

35. (previously presented) The movable body management apparatus according to claim 34, further comprising:

authentication request reception means for receiving an authentication request, wherein said authentication request includes identification information about a user transmitted by a mobile communication terminal of said user of said movable body apparatus; and

authentication processing means for performing authentication processing based on said identification information included in said authentication request received by said authentication request reception means, wherein

said authentication result information transmission means transmits said permission information based on results determined by said authentication processing means and said determination means.

36. (previously presented) The movable body management apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising:

authentication request reception means for receiving an authentication request, wherein said authentication request includes identification information about a user transmitted by a mobile communication terminal of said user of said movable body apparatus; and

authentication processing means for performing authentication processing based on said identification information included in said authentication request received by said authentication request reception means, wherein

said authentication result information transmission means transmits permission information based on results determined by said authentication processing means.

37. (previously presented) The movable body management apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said fee calculation means determines said fee based on a position where said movable body apparatus is returned.

38. (previously presented) The movable body management apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said fee calculation means sets a higher fee when said movable body apparatus is returned to a position different from a predetermined return position than when it is returned to said predetermined return position.

39. (original) The movable body management apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said fee calculation means calculates said fee based on said driving time and an average driving time which is determined according to said mileage.

40. (previously presented) A movable body apparatus in a movable body management system including a plurality of movable body apparatuses and a movable body management apparatus, wherein said movable body management apparatus manages said

plurality of movable body apparatuses, and wherein said movable body apparatus comprises:

retrieval information reception means for receiving movable body retrieval information from a mobile communication terminal;
and

notification means for notifying a user of a nearby movable body apparatus position when said retrieval information reception means receives said movable body retrieval information addressed to a nearby movable body apparatus.

41. (previously presented) The movable body apparatus according to claim 40, further comprising:

authentication information transmission means for transmitting authentication information to said movable body management apparatus;

authentication result information reception means for receiving authentication result information returned in response to said authentication information;

lock means for preventing use of a movable body apparatus;

permission information reception means for receiving permission information based on said authentication result information received by said authentication result information reception means from authentication result information transmission means of said movable body management apparatus;
and

lock control means for releasing a lock mechanism by controlling said lock means when receiving said permission information from permission information reception means.

42. (previously presented) The movable body apparatus according to claim 41, further comprising

payable information acceptance means for accepting payable information, wherein said authentication information transmission means transmits said payable information accepted by said payable information acceptance means as said authentication information to authentication information reception means of said movable body management apparatus, and wherein

said lock control means controls said lock means to release said lock mechanism when receiving said permission information based on said authentication result information received by said authentication result information reception means from authentication result information transmission means of said movable body management apparatus.

43. (previously presented) A movable body management apparatus in a movable body management system including a plurality of movable body apparatuses and a movable body management apparatus, wherein said movable body management apparatus manages said plurality of movable body apparatuses, and wherein said movable body management apparatus comprises:

current position reception means for receiving current positional information from current position transmission means of a movable body apparatus;

provision request reception means for receiving a provision request transmitted from a mobile communication terminal, wherein said provision request is for said current positional information about a nearby movable body apparatus; and

positional information transmission means for transmitting said current positional information about a current position of said nearby movable body apparatus to said mobile communication terminal transmitting said provision request, wherein said current positional information is transmitted when said provision request reception means receives said provision request.

44. (previously presented) The movable body management apparatus according to claim 43, wherein said positional information transmission means transmits movable body retrieval information for retrieving said movable body apparatus in addition to said current positional information about said movable body apparatus.

45. (previously presented) The movable body management apparatus according to claim 43, wherein

said current position reception means is capable of receiving said current position from said mobile communication terminal for said movable body apparatus; and

said positional information transmission means retrieves said movable body apparatus nearest to said mobile communication terminal based on said current position of said mobile communication terminal received by said current position reception means.

46. (previously presented) The movable body management apparatus according to claim 43, further comprising

authentication information reception means for receiving [said] authentication information from said movable body apparatus; and

authentication result information transmission means for transmitting authentication result information corresponding to said authentication information received by said authentication information reception means to said movable body apparatus.

47. (previously presented) The movable body management apparatus according to claim 46, further comprising

determination means for determining whether payment is possible based on payable information received as said authentication information by said authentication information reception means from authentication information transmission means of said movable body apparatus, wherein

said authentication result information transmission means transmits permission information as said authentication result information to authentication result information reception means of said movable body apparatus, when said determination means determines payment is possible.

48. (previously presented) The movable body management apparatus according to claim 47, further comprising

authentication request reception means for receiving an authentication request, wherein said authentication request includes identification information about a user transmitted by a mobile communication terminal of said user of said movable body apparatus; and

authentication processing means for performing authentication processing based on said identification information included in said authentication request received by said authentication request reception means, wherein

said authentication result information transmission means transmits said permission information based on results determined by said authentication processing means and said determination means.

49. (previously presented) The movable body management apparatus according to claim 46, further comprising

authentication request reception means for receiving an authentication request, wherein said authentication request

includes identification information about a user transmitted by a mobile communication terminal of said user of said movable body apparatus; and

authentication processing means for performing authentication processing based on said identification information included in said authentication request received by said authentication request reception means, wherein

said authentication result information transmission means transmits permission information based on results determined by said authentication processing means.

50-126. (canceled)